

REMARKS

In this first Office Action dated June 23, 2006, the Examiner has rejected Claims 21-26 under 35 USC §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner has further rejected Claims 1, 2, 8-12, 16, 17, 19-22, 24 and 25 under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by USPN 7,051,316 to Charisius et al. ("Charisius"). The Examiner objected to Claims 3-7, 13-15, and 18 as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In this response, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 21-26 under 35 USC §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter, as well as the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 8-12, 16-17, 19-22, 24 and 25 under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by USPN Charisius. Nevertheless, in order to advance the prosecution of this application to allowance, Applicant requests cancellation without prejudice of rejected Claims 1,2, 8-12, 16-17, and 21-22. Applicant has amended the remaining claims to place them in condition for allowance as set forth in detail below.

Claims 3 – 7

Applicant has amended Claim 3 to an independent claim that includes all of the limitations of the rejected base Claim 1 and intervening Claim 2. Claims 4-7 are as originally presented, and depend from amended Claim 3. Applicant submits that Claims 3-7 are in condition for allowance, and requests that the rejection of Claims 3-7 be withdrawn.

Claims 13-15

Applicant has amended Claim 13 to an independent claim that includes all of the limitations of the rejected base claim 11 and intervening Claim 12. Claim 14 is as originally presented, and depends from amended Claim 13. Claim 15 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 13 as well. Applicant submits that Claims 13-15 are in condition for allowance, and requests that the rejection of Claims 13-15 be withdrawn.

Claims 18-20

Applicant has amended Claim 18 to an independent claim that includes all of the limitations of the rejected base claim 16 and intervening Claim 17. Claim 19 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 18. Claim 20 is as originally presented, and depends from amended Claim 19. Applicant notes that, although the Examiner did not include dependent Claims 19-20 in the indication of allowable subject matter set forth in the Office Action, the limitations of Claims 19 and 20 are parallel to the limitations of allowable Claims 5 and 6, respectively. Therefore, Applicant urges the Examiner to reconsider Claims 19-20 as allowable for at least the same reasons that Claims 5 and 6 are allowable. Applicant submits that Claims 18-20 are in condition for allowance, and requests that the rejection of Claims 18-20 be withdrawn.

Claims 23-26

Applicant has amended Claim 23 to an independent claim that includes all of the limitations of the rejected base claim 21 and intervening Claim 22. Claims 24 and 26 have been amended to depend from amended Claim 23. Claim 25 is as originally presented, and depends from amended Claim 24. Applicant notes that, although the

Examiner did not include Claims 23-26 in the indication of allowable subject matter set forth in the Office Action, the limitations of Claims 23, 24, 25, and 26 are parallel to the limitations of allowable Claims 3, 5, 6, and 7 respectively. With reference to Claim 23, Applicant notes that Claim 23 was further amended to recite a "computer-readable" medium to clarify that the claimed invention is directed to statutory subject matter.

Therefore, Applicant urges the Examiner to reconsider Claims 23-26 as allowable for at least the same reasons that Claims 3, 5, 6, and 7 are allowable. Applicant submits that Claims 23-26 are in condition for allowance, and requests that the rejection of Claims 23-26 be withdrawn.

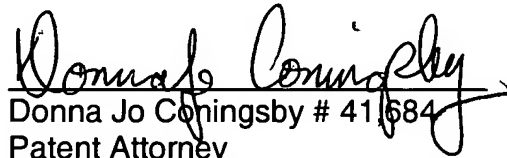
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the Examiner's rejections and objections have been overcome. Therefore, Claims 3-7, 13-15, 18-20, and 23-26 are now in condition for allowance and such action to allow the claims is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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